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(b)(1)
(b)(3)

"FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA" [1]

Slobodan MILOSEVIC
(Phonetic: meeLOHshehveech)

President, "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia"(FRY) (since 1997)

Addressed as: Mr. President (b)(3)

Slobodan Milosevic currently faces the greatest challenges to his position since his rise to national-level politics more than a decade ago. The conflict in the predominantly ethnic Albanian Kosovo province, refusal of Montenegrin leaders to cooperate with Milosevic's efforts to transfer power to the federal level, and a worsening economy have limited his room for political maneuvering. While Milosevic remains the preeminent Serbian politician his power has eroded significantly in the past year (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3) (b)(3) (b)(3)

Opposition from Montenegro (b)(3)

Milosevic has tried with difficulty to transfer power from the republic to the federal level--a task he began in 1997, when he moved from the Serbian to the FRY presidency--he was constitutionally barred from seeking a third term as Serbian President. His efforts to bring republic security services under federal control and amend the FRY constitution to increase the president's powers have been blocked by Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic, whose control of Montenegrin members of the FRY assembly enables him to effectively veto any change in the federal constitution, according to press reports. The ensuing power struggle has prompted Djukanovic to threaten publicly that Montenegro may secede from the FRY; political observers estimate that Montenegrin secession would be a catastrophic blow to Milosevic. (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

Fragile Governing Coalition (b)(3)

Milosevic's control of Serbian politics was also diminished by his leftist coalition's failure to win a majority in the 1997 parliamentary election. To achieve a governing majority, his Socialist Party of Serbia had to enter a coalition with the extreme nationalist Radical Party of Vojislav Seselj. Milosevic preserves the coalition as a hedge against Seselj's attacking him for showing flexibility on Kosovo--a key issue for Serb nationalists, according to press reports. conflicts between the coalition p are growing and that Milosevic may soon replace Seselj with opposition politician Vuk Draskovic. (b)(1) (b)(3)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

No Credible Opponent (b)(3)

In spite of his many challenges, Milosevic remains the FRY's dominant politician because of the lack of viable alternatives. (b)(1) (b)(3)

Rise to Power (b)(3)

Milosevic was born in Pozarevac on 20 August 1941. Both his father, an Orthodox priest, and his mother, a hardline Communist, committed suicide, according to press reports. Milosevic joined the Communist Party at 18. After graduating from the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade in 1964, he held a series of economic-related party positions. Milosevic joined a Belgrade firm, Technogas, in 1968 and became its director in 1973. In 1978 he assumed the post of president of the Bank of Belgrade, one of Yugoslavia's largest financial institutions. He

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returned to full-time politics as Belgrade party chief in 1984. Milosevic took over as head of the Serbian party in 1986. In April 1987 he captured international attention with his dramatic appearance at a protest meeting of

Kosovo Serbs, where he initiated an inflammatory nationalist campaign to right the wrongs he claimed they were suffering. He became Serbian President in 1989. He was popularly elected to the position in 1990 and reelected in 1992. (b)(3)

Personal Data (b)(3) (b)(1) (b)(3)

(b)(1) (b)(3)

Milosevic speaks excellent, though accented, English. His wife, Mirjana Markovic, has been widely described as his closest confidante and adviser. The couple has a daughter, Marija, and a son, Marko.

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Crisis in Kosovo (b)(3)

Milosevic is the supreme decision maker on Kosovo, taking an active role in directing subordinates who implement his decisions on this sensitive issue After several grueling days of negotiations in the face of a serious threat of NATO airstrikes against Serbia, Milosevic finally acquiesced on 13 October to a US-brokered agreement to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1199 on Kosovo. Milosevic's pattern, however, is to sign agreements and then only partially comply with them. For example, in 1995 he signed the Dayton Agreement which calls for turning over indicted war criminals, but has never done so, saying that Serbian/Yugoslav law forbids extradition of its citizens. In November 1996, he signed the Sant' Egidio agreement that would have allowed ethnic Albanians higher education in their own language, but he never followed through on the accord. Milosevic has offered to grant Kosovo increased autonomy but so far has resisted making any far-reaching concessions that are likely to appease the ethnic Albanians, who insist on independence, according to press reporting. He probably is counting on partial compliance, disarray in the ethnic Albanian leadership, and disagreements within the international community to enable him to ride out the crisis in Kosovo. (b)(1) (b)(3) (b)(3)

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[1] The US Government does not officially recognize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. (b)(3)

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